



# MEDIA RELEASE

## MEMPHIS SHELBY CRIME COMMISSION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### MURDERS DOWN SO FAR THIS YEAR; OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME FLAT; MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS – AND ARRESTS - UP

MEMPHIS, TN – The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission has released crime figures for the first quarter of 2017 based on preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's (T.B.I.'s) Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS).

After a disturbing increase last year, murders have dropped 26 percent both countywide and in the city of Memphis compared to the first quarter of 2016 – an encouraging sign.

The overall major violent crime rate was essentially flat compared to the first quarter of last year, with increases of less than one-half of one percent both countywide and in the city of Memphis. Major violent crimes include murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. (Under the T.B.I.'s system, murder includes the intentional, non-justifiable killing of a person. Not every homicide is a murder.)

Major property crimes (composed of burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts) during the first three months of this year compared to the first three months of 2016 increased 14.6 percent in Memphis and 12.9 percent countywide. The major cause continues to be an uptick in motor vehicle thefts. Countywide, over one thousand motor vehicle thefts were reported through March compared to less than seven hundred during the first three months of last year, with the vast majority occurring in the city of Memphis.



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At the same time, though, Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings stated that arrests in Memphis for motor vehicle theft so far this year are significantly above last year's arrests at this point.

Total arrests for motor vehicle theft by MPD in the first quarter of 2017 are 68 percent over that of the same time frame in 2016. Adult arrests for motor vehicle theft in the first quarter of 2017 were 59 percent over that of the same time frame in 2016. Juveniles charged with motor vehicle theft in the first quarter of 2017 were 81 percent over that of the same time frame in 2016.

"While the increase in motor vehicle thefts is of concern, it is encouraging that law enforcement is responding through aggressive enforcement as reflected in the increase in arrests. Hopefully, this will send a clear message to perpetrators and serve as a deterrent going forward," said Bill Gibbons, president of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute at the University of Memphis.

The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate categories of "Group A crimes" tracked by the T.B.I. Through March, the overall crime rate was up in the city of Memphis by 7.1 percent compared to the first quarter of last year and up 4.9 percent countywide. The overall crime rate has been trending downward for the last ten years (2007-2016).

Attached are tables which give a more detailed breakdown of various categories of crime for certain years and comparisons to other years.

###

**About the Crime Statistics.** The Operation: Safe Community monthly crime trends report uses data reported by local enforcement agencies to TIBRS. TIBRS is the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System, which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. An incident is defined in TIBRS as "one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place." Reported major violent crime and domestic violence offenses, however, uniquely refer to a victim count versus an incident count. All rates are calculated based on per 100,000 population.

## **About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission ([www.memphiscrime.org](http://www.memphiscrime.org))**

Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that "quarterbacks" the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chairman of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

**About Operation: Safe Community ([www.operationsafecommunity.org](http://www.operationsafecommunity.org))** Launched in 2006, Operation: Safe Community (OSC), spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community based crime reduction initiative. Operation: Safe Community is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.

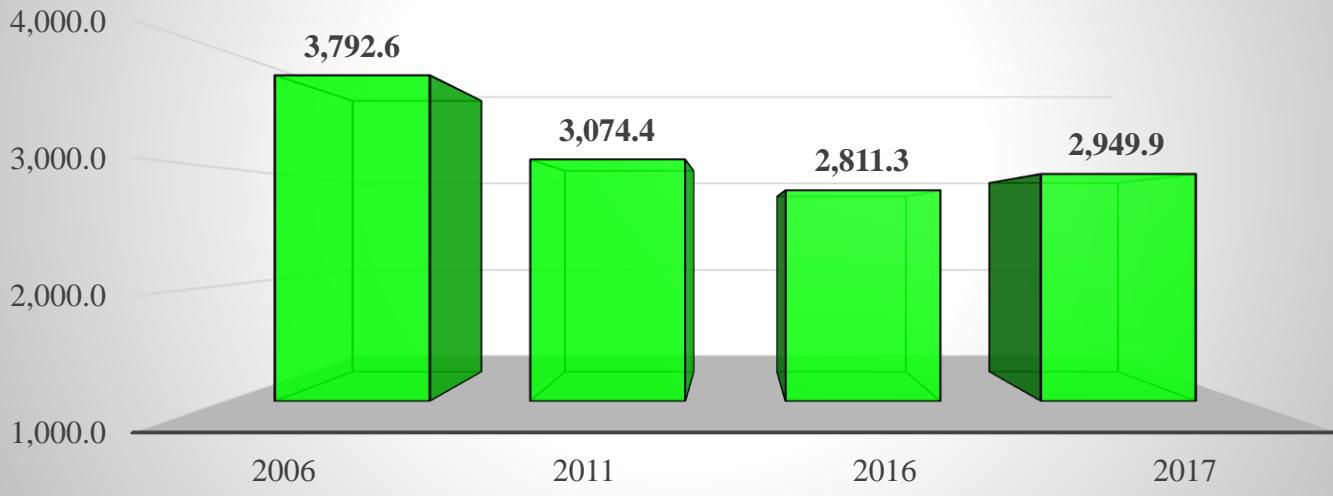


# MEDIA RELEASE

## OVERALL CRIME RATE TRENDS FOR ALL OF SHELBY COUNTY

January 1 - March 31 for 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017\*

(Incidents per 100,000 population)



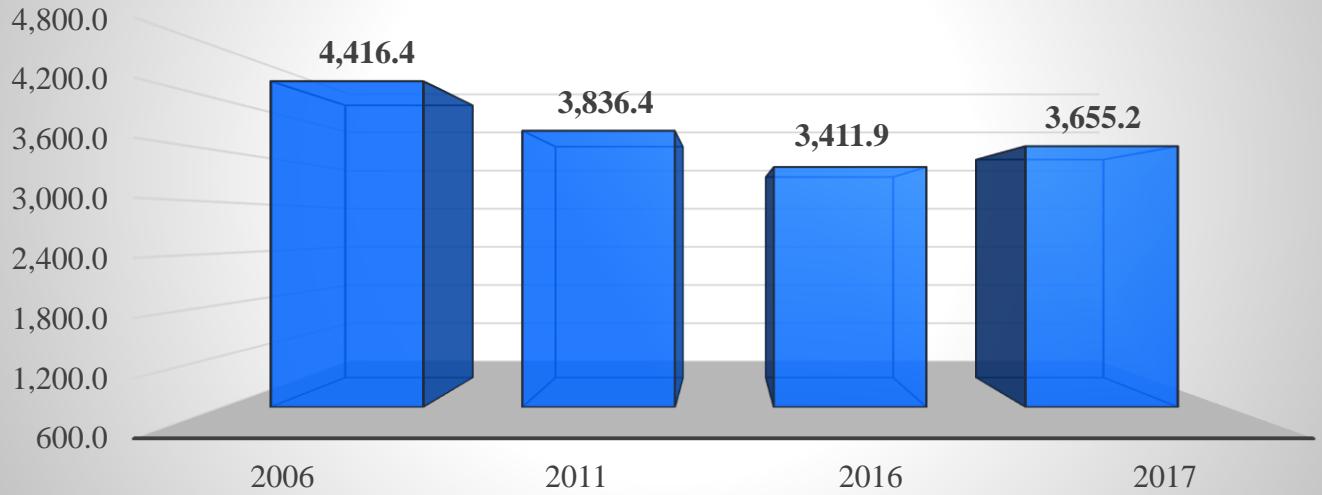
\* A 22.2% decrease in 2017 compared to 2006 and a 4.9% increase compared to 2016.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

## OVERALL CRIME RATE TRENDS FOR THE CITY OF MEMPHIS

January 1 - March 31 for 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017\*

(Incidents per 100,000 population)



\* A 17.2% decrease in 2017 compared to 2006 and a 7.1% increase compared to 2016.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

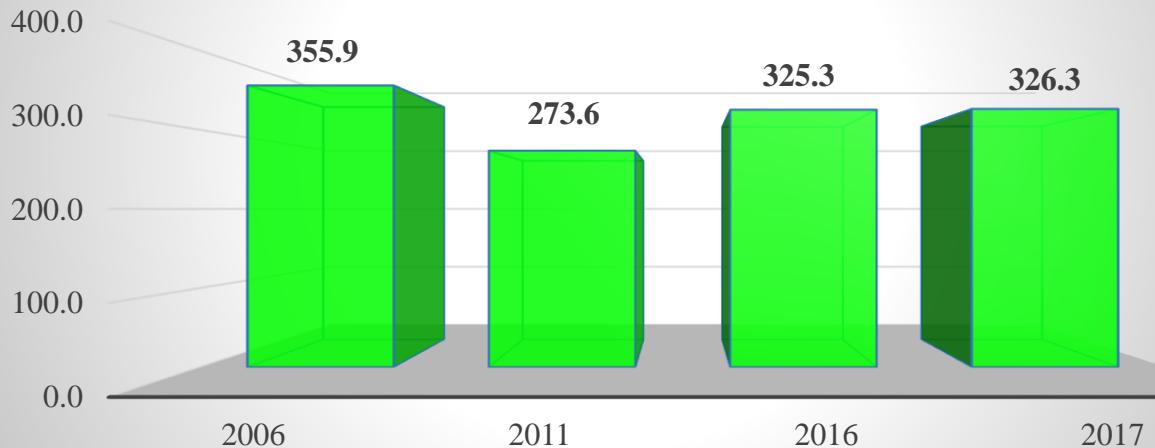


# MEDIA RELEASE

## MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME RATE FOR ALL OF SHELBY COUNTY

January 1 - March 31 for 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2017\*

(Incidents per 100,000 population)



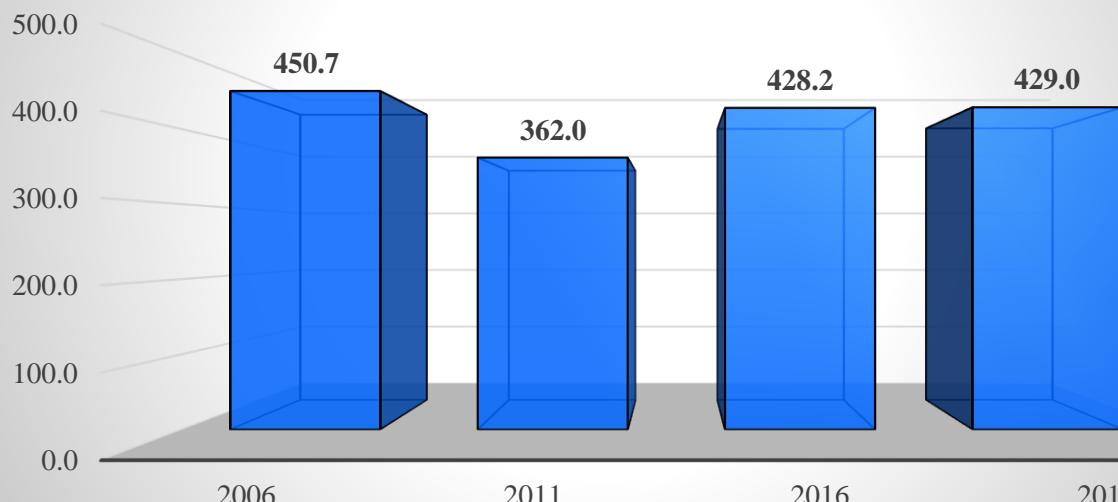
\* The 2017 figure is an 8.3% decrease from 2006 and a .3% increase from 2016.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

## MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME RATE FOR THE CITY OF MEMPHIS

January 1 - March 31 for 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017\*

(Incidents per 100,000 population)

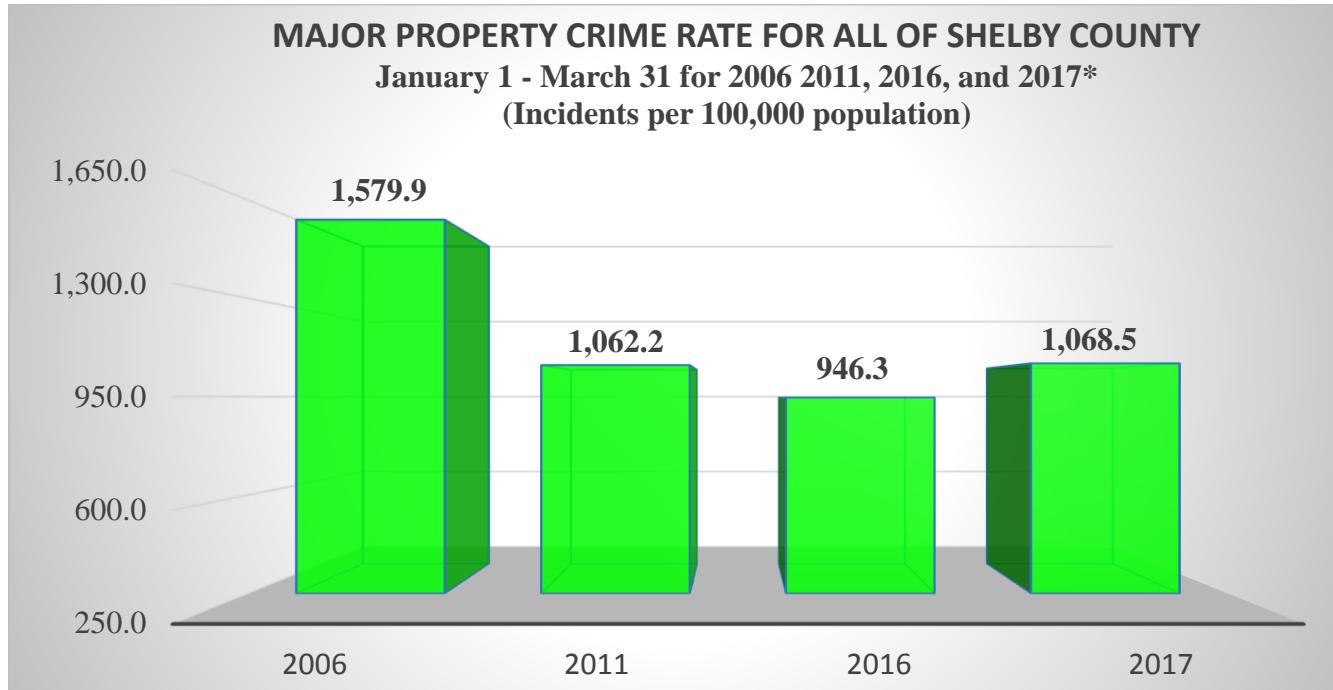


\* The 2017 figure is a 4.8% decrease from 2006 and a .2% increase from 2016.

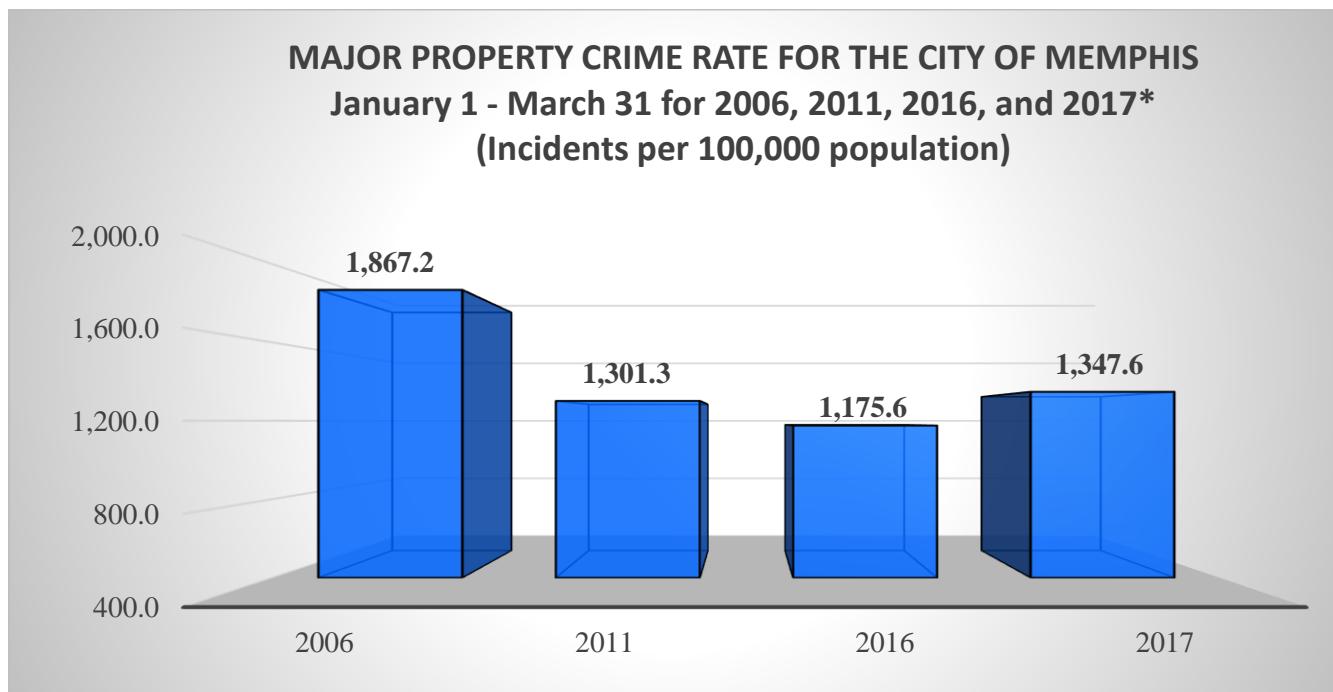
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.



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\* The 2017 figure is a 32.4% decrease from 2006 and a 12.9% increase from 2016.  
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.



\* The 2017 figure is a 27.8% decrease from 2006 and a 14.6% increase from 2016.  
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017**

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population <sup>*</sup> )							
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder	3.5	2.8	5.3	3.9	13.3%	41.6%	-26.0%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	12.8	17.2	14.1	17.2	33.7%	-0.5%	22.0%
Aggravated Assault <sup>2</sup>	201.6	179.3	220.0	224.5	11.4%	25.2%	2.0%
Robbery	137.9	74.2	85.9	80.7	-41.5%	8.7%	-6.1%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	355.9	273.6	325.3	326.3	-8.3%	19.3%	0.3%
Burglary	432.2	319.4	235.8	230.9	-46.6%	-27.7%	-2.1%
Theft Offenses	968.3	663.2	637.3	724.9	-25.1%	9.3%	13.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	179.4	79.6	73.2	112.7	-37.2%	41.6%	53.9%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	1579.9	1062.2	946.3	1068.5	-32.4%	0.6%	12.9%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	644.9	660.2	529.0	544.7	-15.5%	-17.5%	3.0%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	206.5	189.9	153.2	133.6	-35.3%	-29.7%	-12.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	53.7	38.1	42.7	41.9	-22.0%	9.9%	-2.0%
Domestic Violence	539.0	570.5	484.3	517.9	-3.9%	-9.2%	6.9%
Total Group A Offenses	3792.6	3074.4	2811.3	2949.9	-22.2%	-4.0%	4.9%

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2015 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2015 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	919,179	933,529	938,069	938,069



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Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Memphis, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
Janauary 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder <sup>2</sup>	4.7	3.8	7.6	5.6	20.3%	48.0%	-26.0%
Rape <sup>2,3</sup>	16.0	22.4	17.5	21.7	35.5%	-3.4%	23.5%
Aggravated Assault <sup>2,4</sup>	249.8	234.1	286.1	290.3	16.2%	24.0%	1.5%
Robbery	180.2	101.7	117.0	111.3	-38.2%	9.5%	-4.8%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>4</sup>	450.7	362.0	428.2	429.0	-4.8%	18.5%	0.2%
Burglary	518.9	402.2	301.5	301.2	-42.0%	-25.1%	-0.1%
Theft Offenses	1126.6	797.8	778.5	900.8	-20.0%	12.9%	15.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	221.7	101.2	95.6	145.6	-34.3%	43.8%	52.3%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	1867.2	1301.3	1175.6	1347.6	-27.8%	3.6%	14.6%
Simple Assault <sup>5</sup>	763.3	840.2	627.2	665.3	-12.8%	-20.8%	6.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>6</sup>	200.4	226.0	155.5	140.4	-29.9%	-37.8%	-9.7%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>6</sup>	62.5	47.7	47.0	47.4	-24.1%	-0.6%	1.0%
Domestic Violence	652.8	735.7	603.0	662.9	1.6%	-9.9%	9.9%
Total Group A Offenses	4416.4	3836.4	3411.9	3655.2	-17.2%	-4.7%	7.1%

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2015 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2015 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
682,024	655,816	655,770	655,770	